

U. S. Business Men In a Drive to Solve Reparation Crisis

**Berlin to Offer Allies
New Proposal on Debt**

LONDON, Dec. 31.—Dr. Theo-

LONDON, Dec. 21.—(AP.)—The German ambassador Meißner, Hamburg banker, and one of Germany's delegates to the Versailles peace conference, has gone to Paris, where he will submit to the French government fresh reparation proposals, says a Central News dispatch from Berlin, quoting the "Lokal-Anzeiger" as its authority.

The proposals, the dispatch adds, will include a request for

By Carter Field
WASHINGTON, Dec. 21.—Rapid progress in planning American aid to combat European economic troubles

French Senate Backs Poincare In Ruhr Seizure

Approval Almost Unanimous as Premier Reaffirms the Right to Hold German Property Until Payment

Denies Aim to Ruin Foe

Paris Conference to Consider Allied Debts; France to Pay When Germany Does

By Wilbur Forrest

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PARIS, Dec. 21.—Inter-Allied debts, Premier Poincaré told the Senate today, no longer wait upon the action of the United States for solution. These debts, he definitely made it known,

Some of the more sensational features of the London dispatches telling of the move by business men were vigorously denied here, but the underlying essentials were, to all intents and purposes, not denied.

Secretary Hoover denied that he had been promised any material

will be taken up together with the reparations problem when the Allied Premiers assemble here January 2, France, however, he declared, will never feel obligated to pay her creditors the debts incurred in a war she fought for the sake of all nations until the damage done to French territory has been repaired by Germany. Vigorous cheers met this declaration. The charge that France will ruin Germany in her collection of reparations the Premier dismissed as "ridiculous calumny." By the end of the

year, he asserted, France will have paid out 100,000,000,000 francs for purposes which, under the Treaty of Versailles, are German obligations. Affirming that the whole reparation question has become unbearable and intolerable to the French people, he reiterated the government's determination to seize German properties if necessary. Article 248 of the treaty, he pointed out, gives the right of seizure in many German cities. This assertion was approved by the chamber, and the Senate approved the premier's words by an almost unanimous vote.

Poincare spoke in answer to an inquiry of a commission of the chamber as to experts to fix the amount of reparations Germany could pay. He has been discussed by Secretary Hughes on Tuesday with Julius H. Barnes, president of the Chamber of Commerce of the United States, and Elliott Goodwin, executive of that organization in Washington.

It was learned also that negotiations with regard to this commission were now under way in Paris, and that hope is very strong that France will not

repellation by Sena, who said that the occupation of the Ruhr would be useless as a means of forcing German payment.

The Premier's reply was brief, but intense in feeling. France, he said, already had tried to secure deliveries of goods from Germany on account of reparations, but without success. He cited one specific instance—200 telegraph poles, 55,000 square meters of wood. It was delivered through the capacity of the German Government, but they had not been delivered. France, he added, was still awaiting the promised visit of German industrialists to discuss a program of

...only agree to have an American commission look into the amount of reparations Germany can pay, but also will agree to accept as binding the amount fixed.

Plan Not Cuno's, Says Barnes

Dispatches from London indicate that the original proposal for a commission to investigate German trade commission headed by Wilhelm Cuno, the German Chancellor, was flatly denied, but by officials here and by Julius Barnes, who issued through the offices of the Massachusetts Commerce Bureau the following statement:

This report, originally originated

public works through the French. Denying the intent to ruin Germany, Poincare said:

"We, on the contrary, wish to have a prosperous Germany as a neighbor, and we wish to see Germany able to pay its own internal and external loans for the purpose of paying her debts."

Every effort, Poincare assured the Senate, would be made on January 10 to persuade Germany that the French intentions toward Germany, of the fact that France was planning neither conquests nor annexations, but simply was trying to find the best way out of the financial impasse, had been determined.

The recognition by all countries the definite settlement of the reparations problem would be a considerable gain on the road to recovery. It is natural that business organizations of the world should look for aid in determining reparations. America, which refused at the outset to share in reparations, therefore has an anti-interest in the question.

"It is manifest that our American Administration is properly exploring every avenue of hopeful progress in reparation, and that it is not only with France and the other Allies, but it is certainly a mistake to say that any such efforts have been suggested."

Quebec Church in Flames

QUEBEC, Que., Dec. 21.—The entire town fighting rampant of this city city was called out to-night to combat a blaze in Notre Dame Church. The institution is considered one of the most beautiful in Canada and contains a wealth of artistic treasures.

of the decree. It will become final at the end of three months. It is understood, though unofficially, that during this probationary period and afterward the custody of the only child will be given to Mrs. Barrymore.

Mr. Curtin refused yesterday to comment on the case beyond saying that Mr. Barrymore had opposed the suit.

Mrs. Barrymore is a daughter of McKee Rankin and comes from a distinguished line of actors and actresses. She is married to a Broadway with-

ernment shall take steps to call an economic conference to consider financial problems of Europe and the world and also to consider further disarmament. The president was put squarely before the issue to-day.

Senator Borah, of Idaho, declaring it was time to break the deadlock which exists over reparations, introduced an amendment to the naval bill, which would call for an international economic and arms limitation conference. The amendment will be pressed as a substitute for the House proposition in the naval bill, which would call for a conference on the construction of aircraft and of surface

draw abruptly from the stage and went to Paris, where he studied etching and painting at Julien's, accompanied by his wife. Lionel Barrymore made his stage debut when he was fifteen years old. He appeared with his grandmother, Mrs. John Drew sr., in "The Rivals," in 1893. He is the son of Maurice Barrymore and was born in Philadelphia.